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ABSTRACT

Noting recent neuroscience research findings suggesting that caregivers play a vital role in brain development, this videotape explores the process of brain development during the first 15 months of life and presents implications for infant care. Part 1 of the 28-minute video discusses basic infant development and brain research, focusing on how the brain works, the role of early experience, developmental milestones, and the importance of attachment relationships. Part 2 examines health and safety issues, highlighting influences on brain development, injuries that could impair brain development, creating a safe environment, and factors contributing to child abuse. Part 3 discusses caregiver responsiveness, guidance, and partnering, focusing on the ways caregivers' behavior provides the basis for a secure attachment, including sensitive behavior, predictability, teaching, creating a learning environment, and providing challenging and appropriate toys. Part 4 addresses ways caregivers can form partnerships with parents and presents characteristics of high quality child care programs. Part 5 summarizes the impact of the environment on early brain development, from prenatal effects to the role of intervention for at-risk infants. (KB)

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